



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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## California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet The Abandoned Mine Lands Unit

● The Department of Conservation's **Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU)** implements a field program to inventory abandoned mines, provide a preliminary assessment of any health and safety hazards observed, and remediate hazardous sites.

● AMLU estimates of the number of abandoned mines in California include the following.

- More than **154,800** mine features\* on **46,900** abandoned mine sites exist statewide.
  - **50%** are on private lands.
  - **48.5%** are on federal lands.
  - **1.5%** are on State or local lands.
- **39,400** abandoned mines (84% of 46,900 sites) are physical safety hazards and **5,200** (11%) are environmental hazards.
- **58,800** abandoned mine features (38% of 154,800 features) are hazardous openings.

\* A feature is a single human-made object or disturbance associated with mining, such as a shaft or adit (vertical or horizontal opening), tailings, machinery and facilities, etc. A mine can be comprised of one or more features.

● AMLU inventory and remediation (e.g., fences, gates, and other closures) totals through June 2006 are as follows (see also the AMLU's *Abandoned Mine Inventory and Remediation Fact Sheet*).

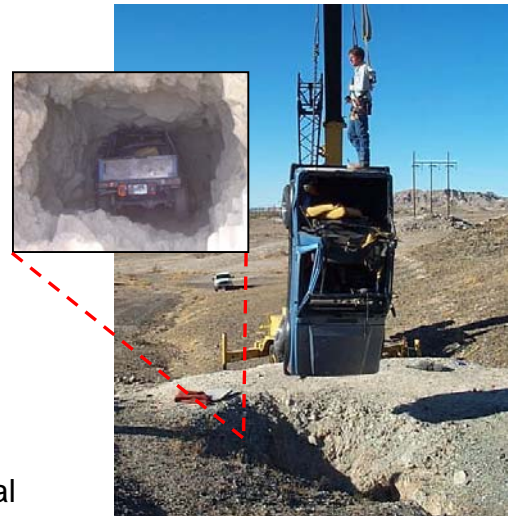
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|---|--|
| ● <b>Field inventories</b> (since 1997)       | ● <b>Remediations</b> (since 2002)             |
| ■ More than <b>2,300</b> abandoned mine sites | ■ More than <b>80</b> abandoned mine sites     |
| ■ More than <b>13,700</b> mine features       | ■ More than <b>260</b> hazardous mine features |

● Every year, people are injured or killed in accidents on abandoned mine property. In the first seven months of 2006, five accidents at abandoned mines in California were reported. These accidents resulted in three fatalities, while five other people were injured.

● The AMLU's "**Stay Out - Stay Alive!**" message is part of a national public awareness campaign aimed at warning children and adults about the dangers of exploring and playing near abandoned mines. To report an abandoned mine in California, call the AMLU Hotline at **1-877-OLD-MINE**.

● The AMLU also convenes the **California Abandoned Mine Lands Forum**. Forum members meet every three months to discuss and coordinate on water quality, safety, and/or environmental hazard issues associated with abandoned mine lands in California.

● The map on page 2 shows potential, inventoried, and remediated mine feature locations. For more information, visit the AMLU website at [www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine\\_land](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land).



A vehicle is removed from an abandoned mine shaft in Imperial County after a rescue (photos courtesy of Yuma Fire Dept. and Bureau of Land Management).





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***CALIFORNIA ABANDONED MINES  
POTENTIAL, INVENTORIED AND REMEDIATED  
MINE FEATURE LOCATIONS***

- ★ Remediations
- ▲ AML Program Inventoried Feature
- USGS Mapped Mine Feature\*
- Cities

\*Based on USGS 7.5 minute topographical map mine symbols



0 40 80 120 160 Miles

Map produced by the Department of Conservation Abandoned Mine Lands Unit on 6/15/06.